

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 PORT O 00213 291419Z

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 EB-07 IGA-01 RSC-01 CU-02 USIA-06

L-02 SP-02 EUR-12 /049 W  
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R 291322Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7326

INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

AMCONSUL BELIZE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PORT OF SPAIN 0213

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID, SEDU, XL, TD, EAGR

SUBJ: PROPOSED GRANT AID FOR CARIBBEAN AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH  
DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE (CARDI)

REF: A. STATE 15831 (AIDAC); B. DRAFT PROP DTD 12/27/74

1. EMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN GENERALLY ENDORSES CONCEPT OF PROPOSED  
AID GRANT TO CARDI BUT BELIEVES A NUMBER OF QUESTIONS NEED  
FURTHER EXAMINATION BEFORE AID MOVES TOO FAST TO APPROVE THIS  
PROJECT.

2. PROTOCOL AGREEMENT BETWEEN CARDI AND UWI REFERRED TO IN PARA  
1.C. REF A HAS NOT YET BEEN SIGNED, APPARENTLY BECAUSE SOME OF  
PARTICIPATING GOVERNMENTS HAVE NOT YET CONCURRED IN CARDI  
FORMATION. DR. REGINALD PIERRE, WHO HAD BEEN TENTATIVELY SELECTED  
TO BECOME EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF CARDI, HAS RETURNED TO UWI'S  
MONA CAMPUS IN JAMAICA, AND WE UNDERSTAND THAT ALL CONCERNED  
GOVERNMENTS ARE NOT IN AGREEMENT ON PIERRE'S NOMINATION TO THIS  
POSITION.

3. THIS AMORPHOUS SITUATION HIGHLIGHTS OUR PRINCIPAL CONCERN,  
WHICH IS NOT ALLEVIATED BY DRAFT PROP. PROJECT ASSUMES (PROP  
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PAGE 3 PARA 3.A.): "THAT NATIONAL GOVERNMENTS WILL MODIFY  
POLICIES AND PRIORITIES OF RESOURCE ALLOCATION TO MAXIMIZE

AVAILABLE PRODUCTION CAPACITY AND UTILIZATION OF TECHNICAL PERSONNEL TO ENCOURAGE DEVELOPMENT OF THE RURAL SECTOR." AGAIN, ON PAGE 8 IT IS ASSUMED: "THAT CARIBBEAN STATE GOVERNMENTS WILL COOPERATE....BY PROVIDING PERSONNEL, FACILITIES, AND ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT."

4. UNQUESTIONABLY, THE PROJECT BECOMES OF MARGINAL UTILITY UNLESS THE ASSUMPTIONS MADE ABOUT ACTIONS AND PRIORITIES OF THE GOVERNMENTS INVOLVED ARE TRULY VALID. WE DO NOT FEEL THAT THESE ASSUMPTIONS HAVE BEEN ADEQUATELY TESTED AT THIS STAGE, NOR THAT SUFFICIENT CONCLUSIONS CAN BE DRAWN MERELY BY TALKING TO THE PROJECT PROPONENTS WITHIN THE REGIONAL INSTITUTIONS THEMSELVES.

5. THE PROP RECOGNIZES (PAGE 14) THAT ONE OF THE PRINCIPAL REASONS FOR THE FAILURE TO ENCOURAGE YOUTH TO REMAIN ON THE FARMS HAS BEEN THE LACK OF ECONOMIC INCENTIVE FOR SMALL-SCALE FARMING ENTERPRISES. THIS LACK OF ECONOMIC INCENTIVE IS DIRECTLY LINKED TO GOVERNMENT POLICIES WHICH MUST BE CHANGED IF MEANINGFUL INCENTIVE TO REVITALIZE FOOD-CROP AGRICULTURE IN THE REGION IS TO BE FOUND. THUS WE AGAIN ARE FACED WITH THE CRUCIAL QUESTION OF JUST HOW IMPORTANT THIS EFFORT IS IN THE GOVERNMENTAL HALLS OF POWER IN THE PARTICIPATING CARIBBEAN STATES.

6. IN ORDER TO OBTAIN SOME REASONABLE ASSESSMENT OF THESE QUESTIONS BEYOND MAKING CONVENIENT ASSUMPTIONS OR TAKING THE WORD OF BENEFICIARY INSTITUTION ADVOCATES, I RECOMMEND THAT I AND MY COLLEAGUES IN OTHER AFFECTED CAPITALS BE PERMITTED TO ENTER INTO A DIALOGUE WITH OUR HOST GOVERNMENTS AT AN APPROPRIATE LEVEL TO DETERMINE THEIR COMMITMENT TO THE REGIONAL PROJECTS WE PROPOSE TO ASSIST, AND THE DEGREE TO WHICH THEY WILL GIVE THESE PROGRAMS THE PRIORITY WHICH THEY WILL REQUIRE TO MAKE OUR INPUTS WORTHWHILE.

7. OTHER COMMENTS FOLLOW.

8. NOWHERE IN THE CARDI PROP DISCUSSION OF RESEARCH TIE-INS IS THERE ANY MENTION OF THE CHAGUARAMUS AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
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PROJECT IN TRINIDAD, WHICH HAS BEEN UNDERWAY FOR FOUR YEARS AS AN ASSISTANCE PROJECT OF THE WEST GERMAN GOVERNMENT, WORKING ON CORN, SOYBEANS, AND PLANT BREEDING (SEEDS). CERTAINLY THERE SHOULD BE A TIE-IN BETWEEN THESE PROGRAMS OR THE RESULTS OF THEIR RESEARCH.

9. I HOPE TO BE VISITING DR. ITON, DEAN OF COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE AT ST. AUGUSTINE CAMPUS OF UWI (AND PRESENT "HEAD" OF CARDI), PERSONALLY LATER THIS WEEK AND WILL COMMENT FURTHER AT THAT TIME.

10. FOLLOW-UP VISIT BY AID TEAM PROPOSED PARA 2 OF REF A  
SHOULD NOT RPT NOT TAKE PLACE UNTIL AFTER MID-FEBRUARY IN VIEW  
OF ANNUAL PRE-LENTEN CARNIVAL HERE DURING SECOND WEEK OF FEBRUARY  
AND VIRTUAL IMPOSSIBILITY OF GETTING MEANINGFUL WORK DONE  
INVOLVING MEETINGS WITH LOCAL OFFICIALS OR PROFESSIONAL  
PEOPLE UNTIL AFTER THAT WEEK.  
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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT, DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS, GRANTS, PROPOSALS (BID)  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 29 JAN 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** CunninFX  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750033-0229  
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**Line Count:** 123  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION ARA  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 75 STATE 15831, 75 (AIDA DRAFT PROP DTD 12/27/74)  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** CunninFX  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 03 SEP 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <03 SEP 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <18 DEC 2003 by CunninFX>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
05 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** PROPOSED GRANT AID FOR CARIBBEAN AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE (CARDI)  
**TAGS:** EAID, SEDU, EAGR, XL, TD, CARDI  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006